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Gwen Griffith

Iowa State College

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Hopes in a Chest

By Gwen Griffith

ARE you hoping? Then why not a hope chest!

Recently when visiting a friend, I was very much surprised when she asked if I cared to see her hope chest. It had never occurred to me what a worthwhile hobby such a project could be. As we started off to the attic up above. I could not imagine what was in store for me. I'll have to admit that my ideas of the chest I would see were pretty badly shattered when it turned out to be about five large cardboard boxes.

We sat down and she began taking each article from the box and unwrapping it. First of all she disclosed two bright yellow pottery bean pots, and before I was through admiring each item she would be ready with another more exciting one: a whole set of bright colored Fiesta pottery; two cylex coffee pots—one with a clever red handle and cover; two red and white linen luncheon sets; a tan luncheon set in squares faggoted together with yellow green rick rack; a dozen striped glass towels and a dozen smart colored linen hand towels hemmed and stenciled with abstract monograms; a whole set of kitchen utensils with red handles; six beautiful Fostoria glass tumblers; and many more small things. When we came to the bottom of the last box I was so inspired I was all ready to go home and get started.

Even if you're not hoping, it's fun to have things for home that are really yours. They will be usable no matter what you are doing.

Most of the things she had had been given to her, but you don't have to rely entirely on that (for some of us I'm afraid it wouldn't be profitable). Remember the last malted milk and grilled cheese sandwich you ate, when you knew you didn't need it? That would have been enough for a yellow cup and blue saucer of Fiesta.

It wouldn't hurt most of us to try out our ingenuity and make something interesting — don't say you don't have a minute to spare, because everyone has just as much time as he makes plans for. It doesn't take very long to hem a few napkins or little hand towels. Just imagine having green, blue, rust, yellow, and red linen hand towels all hemmed, one end hemstitched, and a design and your monogram appliqued or stenciled on one end. It's not only the fact that they are yours to keep, but it's such a lot of fun to think you've done them.

Stop in at Miss Edna O'Bryan's room to see her kitchen curtains; she bought Purina chicken feed sacks (a lovely off-

orange color) for five cents a sack; she pulled threads to make a design of large squares; in the middle of each square she has appliqued a bright abstract flower; instead of hemming the top edge, she simply turned it down and inserted colored celluloid chicken leg bands.

All of these are fun and easy to make, and every little article helps to make the best hope box ever.

I weighed out every gram of flour
And counted every stroke

But every cake they had me bake
Was just as hard as oak!

—Ronny Ronningen.

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